GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3789
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017
Infant Deaths
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan;Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao;Puttaraju Shri C.S.;Salim Shri Mohammad

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in infant mortality rate in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the number of infants died in the last three years in the country due to such diseases which are curable, State-wise and disease-wise;

(c) whether the Government believes that the main causes of rise in infant death rate are due to shortage of special new born case units, new born stabilization units and new born care corners thereof, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of such functional units and their bed capacities and the number of units opened during the last two years in rural and urban areas, separately; and

(e) whether India has the highest number of infant deaths due to premature births, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for overcome these situations?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a): No. As per the Sample Registration System report of the Registrar General of India, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India has declined from 42 per 1000 live births in 2012 to 37 in 2015. Similarly, in the State of Maharashtra, the IMR has declined from 25 in 2012 to 21 in 2015.

(b): As per the latest available data from the Registrar General of India (RGI), the causes of infant deaths between 2010 and 2013, in India are Prematurity & low birth weight (35.9%), Pneumonia (16.9%), Birth asphyxia & birth trauma (9.9%), Other non-communicable diseases (7.9%), Diarrhoeal diseases (6.7%), Ill-defined or cause unknown (4.6%), Congenital anomalies (4.6%), Infections (4.2%), Injuries (2.1%), Fever of unknown origin (1.7%), and Others (5.4%).
The RGI does not provide state wise causes of deaths.

(c) & (d): The death of newborn within 28 days of life contribute 68% of infant deaths. In order to address newborn mortality, Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) have been established all across the country. Presently, 661 SNCUs are established at district level with more than 11,000 beds and cater to both rural and urban population. Besides this, there are 2321 newborn stabilization units at first referral units and 18,323 newborn care corners at all delivery points. In last two years (2015-16 and 2016-17), a total of 96 SNCUs, 417 NBSUs and 4160 NBCCs have been added under National Health Mission.

(e): According to Registrar General of India, preterm births and low birth weight are the leading causes of infant deaths, contributing to 35.9% of total infant mortality in the country.

In order to address the problem of premature births, Government has taken several steps in the form of delaying age of child birth, promoting birth spacing, improving quality of antenatal care including screening for hypertension, diabetes and infection and use of injection corticosteroid in preterm labour. Besides this, provision has been made for management of preterm babies in Special Newborn Care Units established at district level including provision of Kangaroo Mother Care.